

In the Claims

1 1. A method for operating an optical reader having an
2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:
3 clocking out at least one frame of image data in a low
4 resolution frame clock out mode of operation;
5 reading pixel values from said at least one frame
6 clocked- out in said low resolution clock out mode to
7 determine an operating parameter of said reader; and
8 utilizing said operating parameter in operating said
9 reader.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution
2 mode clock out step includes the step of clock out electrical
3 signals corresponding to some pixel values of said image
4 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate so that an
5 overall frame clock out rate is increased.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution
2 mode clock out step includes the steps of clocking out some
3 rows of said image sensor array at a normal clock out rate and
4 other rows of said image sensor at a higher than normal clock
5 out rate.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said low resolution
2 clock out step includes the step of selectively clocking out

3 electrical signals corresponding to some pixels of said image
4 sensor and not clocking out electrical signals corresponding
5 to other pixels of said sensor.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said image sensor
2 includes a discharge function actuated by activation of a
3 discharge control signals, wherein said low resolution mode
4 clock out step include the step of intermittently activating
5 said discharge control signal while clocking out a frame of
6 image data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an exposure parameter value.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an illumination intensity value.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an illumination on-time value.

1 9. The method of claims 1, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an amplifier gain parameter value.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating

1 parameter is a dark level adjustment value.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said operating
2 parameter is a light level adjustment value.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step
2 of decoding a decodable symbol representation represented in a
3 frame of image data developed utilizing said operating
4 parameter.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said frame clocked
2 out in said low resolution frame clock out mode is clocked out
3 to produce a low resolution parameter determination frame of
4 image data in which valid and invalid data zones are defined
5 by rows of said image sensor.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said image sensor
2 includes a one frame buffer and wherein said low resolution
3 clock out step includes the step of clocking out three frames
4 of image data in a low resolution frame clock out mode.

1 15. A method for operating an optical reader having an
2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:
3 switching operation of said reader to a low resolution

4 mode of operation; and . . .
5 in said low resolution mode, clocking out electrical
6 signals corresponding to some pixel values of said image
7 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate so that an
8 overall frame clock out rate is increased.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said clock out step
2 includes the steps of clock out some rows of said image sensor
3 array at a normal clock out rate and other rows of said image
4 sensor at a higher than normal clock out rate.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein said image sensor
2 includes a discharge function actuated by activation of a
3 discharge control signals, wherein said clock out step include
4 the step of intermittently activating said discharge control
5 signal while clock out a frame of image data.

1 18. A method for operating an optical reader having an
2 image sensor, said method comprising the steps of:
3 switching operation of said reader to a low resolution
4 mode of operation; and selecting in said low resolution mode,
5 clocking out electrical signals corresponding to some pixels
6 of said image sensor and not clocking out electrical signals
7 corresponding to other pixels of said image sensor.

1 19. An optical reader comprising:
2 an imaging assembly having an image sensor;
3 a controller, wherein said controller is adapted to clock
4 out at least one low resolution frame of image data, wherein
5 said controller is adapted to read pixel values from said at
6 least one low resolution frame of image data to determine an
7 operating parameter of said reader, and wherein said
8 controller is adapted to utilize said operating parameter in
9 operating said reader.

1 20. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller
2 develops said low resolution frame of image data by clocking
3 out electrical signals of said frame at a higher than normal
4 rate.

1 21. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller
2 develops said low resolution frame of image data by not
3 clocking out electrical signals corresponding to some pixels
4 of said frame.

1 22. The reader of claim 19, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an exposure parameter value.

1 23. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an illumination intensity value.

1 24. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an illumination on-time value.

1 25. The method of claims 19, wherein said operating
2 parameter is an amplifier gain parameter value.

1 26. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating
2 parameter is a dark level adjustment value.

1 27. The method of claim 19, wherein said operating
2 parameter is a light level adjustment value.

1 28. The reader of claim 19, wherein said controller is
2 further adapted to decode a decodable symbol representation
3 represented in a frame of image data developed utilizing said
4 operating parameter.

1 29. The reader of claim 19, wherein said imaging
2 assembly includes an illumination assembly.

1 30. The reader of claim 19, wherein said illumination
2 assembly includes white LEDs.